GT 8/17/93

Boycott/Action hailed as success — but also decried as alienating

From B1

civics 101. Instead, it's become an issue of economic warfare."

The two side can't even agree how much the state has lost over the boycott and whether it is a success.

Boycott Colorado says the boycott has cost more than $100 million and forced the state to deal with a public relations nightmare.

The list of boycott supporters is lengthy: celebrities, academic and religious associations, and 20 city councils outside Colorado, including those of New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

But convention and visitor officials say the boycott impact is more like $55 million. It didn't stop the ski resorts from having a banner year last season, and they already are seeing a significant increase in reservations for the upcoming season compared to a year ago. And summer tourism is also booming, officials said.

The Springs has lost an estimated $3 million in canceled conventions — a fraction of the $743 million pumped into the area by tourism annually.

"In Colorado Springs, we have risen to the challenge," said Terry Sullivan, head of the city's convention and tourism bureau.

"The boycott has forced us to change our strategies and focus somewhat," he said. "But that doesn't appear to mean a loss of business overall. We haven't had a call about (the boycott) for at least three months."

Those who want the boycott called off are more concerned with another number: polls showing a backlash against the boycott. For example, 47 percent of the respondents in a February poll said the boycott is making them less likely rather than more likely to support a repeal of the measure.

Those same polls indicate most Coloradans are essentially tolerant of gays.

Moreover, many gay rights supporters, including many in the business community, want to distance themselves from Boycott Colorado's harsh, incendiary rhetoric and criticism of other gay rights activists.

Last week Boycott Colorado described Pope John Paul II as the "most powerful international symbol of homophobia." When national gay rights leader Torie Osborn came to Colorado and said it may be time to re-examine the boycott issue, she was quickly labeled an "Uncle Tom" by Boycott Colorado officials.

And Monday, Schleder said gays and minorities critical of the boycott are "suffering from internal homophobia."

Schleder, who was arrested Friday for handcuffing herself to the Governor's Mansion, remains unrepentant.

"We are not hurting the coalition building. That's complete propaganda," she said.

USINESS

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distance industry is very competitive and cellular is going to get more competitive," said Mark Lowenstein, director of mobile communications research at the Yankee Group in Boston.

Long-distance carriers recently won the chance to begin offering some local services in California. And local carriers have asked federal regulators to draw up rules for them to get into the long-distance business.

Several regional Bell operating companies, which have virtual monopolies in local phone service, said Monday that the McCaw acquisition puts AT&T into their business and is another reason they should be allowed into long distance.

"Policy-makers must make competition, not market entry barriers or outdated restrictions, the law of the land," said Richard Brown, vice chairman of Ameritech, the Bell carrier in the Midwest.

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UPDATE

Boycott debated by gay rights supporters

Amendment 2 led to action

By **Louis Aguilar**
Gazette Telegraph

DENVER — Gay rights groups are trying to decide whether to continue to push a boycott of Colorado, but have yet to reach consensus.

The future of the boycott, called in the wake of the passage of Amendment 2, was debated by gay rights supporters Monday night in front of about 50 people at First Unitarian Church in Denver.

The meeting did little to actually settle the matter. Instead, it publicly displayed how divisive the boycott is — even among people who believe Amendment 2 is discriminatory toward gays.

The amendment, created by Colorado Springs-based Colorado for Family Values, would ban laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. It's on hold pending a court challenge of its constitutionality.

"The boycott has been the constant drumbeat to keep Amendment 2 opposition going," Boycott Colorado leader Terry Schleder said in an interview. "The boycott makes the amendment everyone's problem and not just ours."

But gay rights activist Wade Buchanan said in an interview that the economic impact of the boycott has been too low while the political price has been much too high.

"We've lost a lot of allies over this and I think it detracts attention from the larger goal — the struggle for acceptance," said Buchanan, who is the director of Gov. Roy Romer's office of Energy Conservation. "The lessons we should be getting out is that it is really about civil rights and

See **BOYCOTT**/B3

we were such a close family'

Associated Press

DURANGO — Each night t little girl would go to bed we ing three layers of clothes, a she would pile all her stuffed animals high on top of her.

Her mother thought it was odd, but she brushed away stray thoughts of it.

The family appeared to ou siders as perfect, says the mother, Marla Guy. When he husband, Ronald K. Steadma then in his mid-30s, came hor each evening, she and her daughter, Sandi, would hurry to plump the couch cushions, take off his shoes, fix him tea put on his favorite television program or draw a bath.

"Everybody thought we were such a close family," th 33-year-old Marla says, "but what we were doing was keep ing him happy."

Marla married Steadman when she was 14. Five years her senior, he always had com plete control in the family. He sometimes would ground Mar and send her to her room if sh displeased him, she says.

Steadman often would hav Sandi stay up late to rub his back, Marla says. He'd tickle and cuddle her in ways that made Marla uncomfortable. T father and daughter spent a l of time alone together. Sandi ways was daddy's little girl. Marla and her daughter were close at all.

Sandi's memories of sexual contact by her father go back many years. She says she was years old during the first epi sode she remembers.

Her father never told her n to tell anybody about the two of them, she says. He never threatened her. But Sandi kne her relationship with her fa ther was a special secret, and her mother found out she would be angry and jealous.

"He swore he was the only person who loved me," says Sandi, now 17. "I couldn't giv that up."

The incest ended about thr years ago, when Sandi was 14

Sandi says she thought her relationship with her father was normal until she was in fifth or sixth grade. One day, playground chatter, she told classmates she'd already had sex. "With who?" they asked disbelief. Their stunned reac tion when she answered, "My dad," made her realize some thing was very wrong.

"Just kidding," she hur riedly added.

When Marla tried to broach the subject of sex with her daughter, Sandi shot back, "I know about the birds and the